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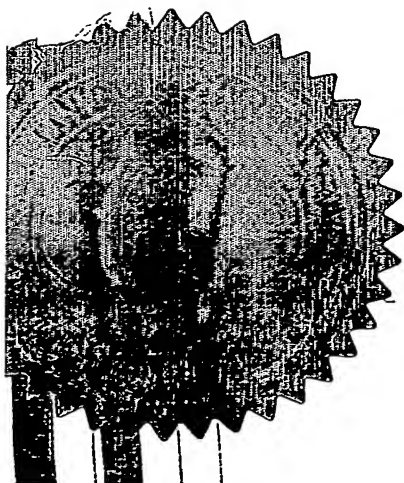
I HEREBY CERTIFY that annexed hereto is a true copy of the
documents filed in connection with the following patent
application:

Application No. PCT/IE 03/00002

Date of Filing 10/01/2003

Applicant Mainline Corporate Holdings Limited, an Irish
Company of Aille, Inverin, County Galway, Ireland.

Dated this 29 day of July 2003.



Clare O'Reilly

An officer authorised by the
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REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.	PCT/IE 03 / 00002
International Filing Date	10 JAN 2003
Name of receiving Office and PCT International Bureau	IRISH PATENTS OFFICE
Applicant's or agent's file reference (if desired) (12 characters maximum)	PN595PCT

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION Methods and Systems for Effecting Payment Card Transactions	
Box No. II APPLICANT <input type="checkbox"/> This person is also inventor	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) MAINLINE CORPORATE HOLDINGS LIMITED Aille Inverin Co. Galway IE	
Telephone No.	
Facsimile No.	
Teleprinter No.	
Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality: IE	State (that is, country) of residence: IE
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box	
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This person is: <input type="checkbox"/> applicant only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)	
Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
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The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agent <input type="checkbox"/> common representative	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.) CURLEY, Donnacha; LANE, Cathal Michael; GATES, Marie Christina Esther; WALSH, Michael Joseph; SHORTT, Peter Bernard; PARKES, Andrew John Aykroyd; MOORE, Barry; TOMKINS & CO., 5 Dartmouth Road, Dublin 6, IE	
Telephone No. +353 1 6605033	
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Name and address: <i>(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)</i> 		This person is: <input type="checkbox"/> applicant only <input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only <i>(If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)</i> <hr/> Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
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Box No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES

Mark the applicable check-boxes below; at least one must be marked.

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a):

Regional Patent

- ☒ AP ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, MZ Mozambique, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
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National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany and utility model | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
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- ☒ PH Philippines ☒ And any other available state ☒ OM OMAN
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Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country or Member of WTO	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) 12 July 2002	S2002/0579	IE		
item (2)				
item (3)				
item (4)				
item (5)				

☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office) identified above as:

☐ all items ☐ item (1) ☐ item (2) ☐ item (3) ☐ item (4) ☐ item (5) ☐ other, see Supplemental Box

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)):

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA / EP

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS

The following declarations are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration):

Number of
declarations

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (i) | Declaration as to the identity of the inventor | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (ii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iv) | Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America) | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (v) | Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty | : |

Box No. IX CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains:

(a) the following number of sheets in paper form:

request (including declaration sheets) : 5
 description (excluding sequence listing part) : 14
 claims : 3
 abstract : 1
 drawings : 4

Sub-total number of sheets : 27

sequence listing part of description (actual number of sheets if filed in paper form, whether or not also filed in computer readable form; see (b) below) :

Total number of sheets : 27

(b) sequence listing part of description filed in computer readable form

(i) ☐ only (under Section 801(a)(i))(ii) ☐ in addition to being filed in paper form (under Section 801(a)(ii))

Type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other) on which the sequence listing part is contained (additional copies to be indicated under item 9(ii), in right column):

This international application is accompanied by the following item(s) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in right column the number of each item):

1. ☒ fee calculation sheet. :
 2. ☐ original separate power of attorney :
 3. ☐ original general power of attorney :
 4. ☐ copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any: :
 5. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature :
 6. ☐ priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s): :
 7. ☐ translation of international application into (language): :
 8. ☐ separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material :
 9. ☐ sequence listing in computer readable form (indicate also type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other)) :
 (i) ☐ copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter only (and not as part of the international application) :
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 10. ☒ other (specify): Letter :

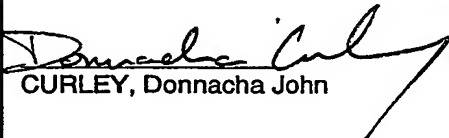
Number of items

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: 3

Language of filing of the international application: English

Box No. X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).


 CURLEY, Donnacha John

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1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:

10 JAN 2003

3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:

4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):

5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA / EP

6. ☐ Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid

2. Drawings:

☒ received:☐ not received:

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Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

Title**METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR EFFECTING PAYMENT CARD
TRANSACTIONS**

5

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to card payment systems. In particular, the present invention relates to systems and methods for processing payment card transactions in a dynamic currency conversion and/or multi-currency scheme.

Background to the Invention

15 Several types of card payment systems are available, examples of which include credit cards, charge cards and debit cards. In general, transactions involving a card payment are conducted in the currency of the merchant. Thus, if an Irish credit card is used for a purchase in the USA, the currency of the transaction will probably be in US\$. The transaction value will subsequently be converted into an equivalent EURO value by the credit card holder's bank but is unknown at the point of sale. This equivalent EURO
20 value will subsequently appear on the credit card holder's statement. This restriction can be inconvenient for cardholders travelling abroad, as they are unsure of the exact value of the transaction in their own currency at the point and time of sale.

25 Dynamic currency conversion overcomes these limitations by performing the currency conversion at the point of sale at the time the customer makes a purchase using their payment card. An example of a dynamic currency conversion system is described in WO01/0486. With dynamic currency conversion processes, the cardholder is informed at the point of purchase as to what amount they are paying in the cardholder's own currency, whilst the merchant obtains payment in the merchant's own currency.
30 This process is possible because the function of converting from the currency of the merchant to the currency of the cardholder is performed at the point of sale terminal rather than in the computer systems of the bank in which the cardholder has their credit

card account. In the context of the present application, the term bank refers generally to any financial institution, which offers payment card services and may be taken to include, for example, building societies and credit unions.

5 In addition to dynamic currency conversion schemes, multi currency schemes also operate to perform the currency conversion part of the transaction prior to submitting the transaction records to the banks for processing. However, in a multi currency scheme the conversion process does not necessarily take place at the point or time of sale but is converted subsequently.

10

Payment card transactions are processed and submitted from the merchants to the financial institutions, or an intermediary, as transaction records. Each transaction has an associated transaction record, containing the details of the transaction. Before the introduction of dynamic currency conversion in payment card transactions, an extract of a transaction record would have looked something along the lines of the transaction "A0" shown in Figure 1.

15

The precise fields and formats of fields used may vary from bank to bank. In brief, the data in the fields identifies the date of the transaction, the name of the holder of the payment card, the card number of the payment card, the expiry date of the payment card, the name of the merchant who is performing the transaction, the code of the merchant performing the transaction and the amount of the transaction.

20

With the introduction of dynamic currency conversion transactions, a number of additional fields are required to be "captured". An extract of an exemplary transaction record in a dynamic currency conversion environment is shown in the transaction "B0" in figure 2. The additional fields to be captured comprise the converted currency element of the transaction, which may include the converted amount in the currency of the cardholder's payment card account, which the cardholder will see on their statement and the exchange rate used to perform the conversion. The currency of the cardholder may also be required.

25
30

Normal transactions (transactions processed in the currency of the merchant only, an example of which is shown in figure 1) are processed conventionally typically through the acquiring bank of the merchant, whereas the dynamic currency conversion transactions may be separated from the normal transactions and may be routed to a dynamic currency conversion system, which may be separate from the acquiring bank, for transmission into the card schemes and which may be settled back to the acquiring bank and/or the merchant via a multi-currency payment card processing bank or other route. A multi-currency payment card processing bank is a bank which is capable of processing payment card transactions from merchants in more than one currency. The separation function may be handled by a POS device dispatching normal and/or converted transactions to a first host and normal and/or converted transactions to another host or hosts. The separation function may also be performed before the POS device, at the POS device and/or post the POS device by an acquirer and/or 3rd party host, server or switch service and/or any other suitable separation means.

For the purposes of the Acquirer and/or other third parties paying the merchant and/or providing the Merchant with the statement in relation to all merchant transactions (rather than two separate regular payments and/or two separate statements), the normal and dynamic currency conversion transactions need to be amalgamated in some way. Accordingly, for settlement purposes vis a vis the acquirer to the merchant, and likewise the statement from the acquirer to the merchant and/or for related card scheme merchant service fee charges deducted & payable to the acquirer by the merchant, a "ghost copy" of the dynamic currency conversion transactions may be incorporated/sent to the Acquirer's or other third parties host. However, to prevent duplication of debits against the Card Holder, these "ghost copy" transactions must not be processed into the card schemes with the normal transactions. Thus the Acquirer's and/or third parties host systems have to be amended, in addition to modifications to the related accounting thereof.

This presents a significant difficulty for acquiring banks interested in using dynamic currency conversion services, as the acquiring banks have to amend their computer systems to deal with the splitting/amalgamation for the purposes of providing

a statement to the merchant and payment/settlement to the merchant. To facilitate dynamic currency conversion services, a significant amount of computer code is required to be re-written on the banks' computer systems.

5 Accordingly, although it appears that a significant number of banks would like to offer dynamic currency conversion payment card facilities, the diversion of computer resources which are frequently scarce and in several cases must be booked years in advance makes the proposition unattractive. Furthermore, the necessity of having to interfere with existing bank computer IT systems/procedures is something that banks are
10 extremely reluctant to risk.

 This situation is to be contrasted to the position regarding the software on the payment card terminals located at the merchant locations or even at an intermediate host, where it is relatively easy to have independent resources allocated to amend the
15 software in the payment card terminals or an intermediate host. Any changes to software in either the payment card terminals or at an intermediate host are unlikely to interfere with the operation of the acquiring bank's host computer.

 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method to effect
20 the performance of a converted payment card transaction, which obviates the necessity for changes to the acquiring banks' host computer system.

Summary of the Invention

25 Accordingly, a first embodiment of the invention provides a method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction for a first transaction amount in a first currency, between a first merchant and a first payment card holder, the method comprising the steps of:

30 a) creating a first payment card transaction record between the first merchant and a second cardholder for the first transaction amount,

- b) creating a second payment card transaction record between a second merchant and the first cardholder, wherein the second transaction record identifies a second transaction amount in a second currency which equates to the first transaction amount converted into the second currency, and
- 5 c) submitting the first transaction record and the second transaction record for processing as payment card transactions.

As the first cardholder is effectively replaced by a second cardholder in the first transaction record, the subsequent processing of the second transaction by a dynamic
10 currency conversion operator will not cause a double debit in respect of the first cardholder. Thus the necessity of re-writing an acquirer's software to avoid any such related type double debit is avoided. Similarly, from the perspective of the acquirer and/or its merchant handling of transactions processed for the merchant, the acquirer systems do not have to be amended to introduce and/or receive ghost transactions for the
15 purposes of amalgamation and/or calculating service charges for the merchant.

The second cardholder may be associated with the second merchant.

The step of submitting the first transaction record and the second transaction
20 record for processing may comprise the step of submitting the first transaction record for processing as an unconverted payment transaction. The step of submitting the first transaction record and the second transaction record for processing may comprise the step of submitting the second transaction record for processing as a converted payment transaction.

25

Optionally, the invention may comprise the additional steps of creating a third payment card transaction record between the second cardholder and the second merchant for an amount in the first currency, which is the negative equivalent of the first amount and submitting the third transaction for payment processing. The third
30 transaction may be submitted as an unconverted payment card transaction.

The advantage of this third transaction record is that it effectively cancels out the first transaction record vis a vis the second cardholder. Thus there is no need to correct the balances on the account of the second cardholder.

5 The method may comprise the initial step of determining whether a transaction is a dynamic currency convertible transaction prior to performing the steps of creating the one or more transaction records.

10 The method may comprise the initial step of receiving an indication of a payment card transaction for a first transaction amount in a first currency between a first merchant and a first payment card holder.

The method may comprise the step of posting the first and/or second and/or third transactions to the computer system associated with an acquiring bank.

15 The invention also provides a system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction, the system comprising means for receiving details of a transaction for a first transaction amount in a first currency, between a first merchant and a first payment card holder, means for creating a first payment card transaction record between the first merchant and a second cardholder for the first transaction amount,
20 means for creating a second payment card transaction record between a second merchant and the first cardholder, wherein the second transaction record identifies a second transaction amount in a second currency which equates to the first transaction amount converted into the second currency, and means for submitting created transaction records to a host for processing as payment
25 card transactions.

The means for submitting created transaction records may be suitably adapted to submit the first transaction record for processing as an unconverted payment transaction. The means for submitting created transaction records may be suitably adapted to submit
30 the second transaction record for processing as a converted payment transaction.

Optionally, the system may comprise means for creating a third payment card transaction record between the second cardholder and the second merchant for an amount in the first currency, which is the negative equivalent of the first amount and submitting the third transaction for payment processing. The means for submitting
5 created transaction records may be suitably adapted to submit the third transaction record for processing as an unconverted payment transaction.

The system may comprise means for determining whether a transaction is a dynamic currency convertible transaction prior to performing the steps of creating the
10 one or more transaction records.

In one embodiment the system comprises a payment card terminal. In this embodiment, the means for receiving details of the transaction for a first transaction amount in a first currency comprises the data entry means of the terminal, including for
15 example smart card readers, magnetic strip readers and keypads. The means for receiving details may include means for retrieving the details of the merchant from the terminal memory. In a terminal, the means for creating the first and second payment transaction records may be implemented using appropriate software routines. The details for the second merchant and cardholder may suitably be stored in the terminal memory
20 and retrieved by the means for creating the first and second payment transaction records as required when creating first and second payment transaction records.

In one embodiment the system comprises an intermediate host computer system adapted to receive payment transaction records from a payment card terminal or other
25 device and route them for processing as either converted or unconverted transactions. In this embodiment, the means for receiving details of the transaction comprises means for receiving transaction records. The means for creating the first payment card transaction record and the means for creating the second payment card transaction may be implemented as software routines. The host may be an acquirer's host, a multi-currency
30 bank's host, an intermediate host or any other host. Moreover an acquirer and/or a multi-currency bank may be one and the same person or entirely separate, i.e. in the acquirer

and multi-currency (and/or its/their host) may be one entity, two independent entities within the same bank or two separate banks.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5

The invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is an example of a transaction record according to the prior art,

Figure 2 is an example of a second transaction record known from the prior art,

10 Figure 3 is a block diagram representation of a system suitable for implementing the present invention,

Figure 4 is a flowchart of a method according to the present invention,

Figure 5 is an example of a first transaction according to the present invention,

Figure 6 is an example of a second transaction according to the present invention, and

15 Figure 7 is an example of a third transaction according to the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

20

The present invention is intended for use within a card payment system, and in particular for use with converted transactions. An exemplary scheme, illustrated in Figure 3, comprises a number of POS (point of sale) terminal devices 1. The Terminal devices 1 are adapted to perform payment card transactions. Each device is associated with a merchant. In the exemplary configuration shown, an intermediate host 2 acts as an interface between the POS devices and the payment processing systems of the banks and currency conversion schemes.

25

Payment card transactions are conventionally initiated by a cardholder presenting a payment card at the point of sale at the time of making a purchase. The merchant operating the POS device conventionally swipes the payment card through a magnetic strip reader on a POS device, and then enters the amount of the transaction using a keypad. Other methods of performing card transactions, e.g. by telephone or the Internet,

30

are well known in the art. The exact manner of entering the payment card details and the transaction details are unimportant in the context of the present invention.

The individual payment card transactions may be either a conventional
5 (unconverted) transaction or a converted transaction. In a conventional transaction, the transaction is performed in the currency of the merchant. In a conventional transaction, if the cardholder's account operates in a different currency to that of the merchant, the cardholder's bank performs a conversion into the currency of the cardholder's account at the time of posting the transaction to their account. This conversion generally takes
10 place some time, even days, after the initial transaction has been completed.

Conventional transactions are to be contrasted to converted transactions, where the transaction amount is converted into the currency of the cardholder's payment card account prior to submission of the transaction to the banks for processing. An example
15 of a converted transaction is a dynamic currency converted transaction. An example of a dynamic currency conversion system is described in WO01/0486.

In the exemplary scheme shown, each of the POS devices 1 is adapted to handle conventional and/or converted payment card transactions. For each transaction
20 conducted on a POS device, a transaction record is created and stored on the POS device.

An exemplary conventional transaction record 100 is shown in figure 1. The transaction record identifies the date of the transaction 3, the name of the cardholder 4,
25 the card number of the cardholder 5, the expiry date of the card 6, the name of the merchant 7, the merchant code 8 and the transaction amount 9. The transaction record may include other information and fields.

An exemplary converted transaction 200 is shown in figure 2. Fields that are the
30 same as those fields described previously for a conventional transaction are given the same reference numerals. The converted transaction has a number of fields corresponding to the fields contained in a conventional transaction, such as the name of

the cardholder 4, the card number of the cardholder 5, the expiry date of the card 6, the name of the merchant 7, the merchant code 8 and the transaction amount 9 etc.

5 The converted transaction record may also include other information and fields present in conventional transaction records. In addition, to these fields the converted transaction record contains data in a number of additional fields, which identify the transaction as being a converted transaction. These fields may include a field to store the transaction amount in the currency of the cardholder 11 and/or a field to store the exchange rate used in the conversion 10. Other fields that may be provided include a
10 currency identifier field for identifying the currency of the cardholder.

It will be appreciated that the same field structure may be used for converted and unconverted transactions with an identifier or other means used to distinguish between the two types of transaction. For example, a conventional transaction could be
15 distinguished from a converted transaction by the absence of data (or the presence of null values) in fields relating to converted transactions, e.g. the converted amount field or exchange rate field.

20 The individual transaction records are uploaded to the intermediate host 2, for example as a batch process at the end of each day or at any time during or at the end of the transaction creation and capture cycle.

To facilitate the uploading of transaction records, the POS devices 1 are suitably adapted to communicate with the intermediate host using appropriate communication
25 means, typically by modem over a telephone line.

The intermediate host 2 is adapted to receive the transaction records from the POS devices 1 and to process. The intermediate host 2 subsequently forwards the transaction records onto the computer systems associated with acquiring banks, which
30 are ultimately responsible for the processing of the payment card transactions.

Upon receipt of the individual transaction records, the intermediate host 2 may perform some checks and verification routines to ensure the accuracy of the records submitted. The intermediate host 2 may then separate the converted transactions from the conventional transactions. The conventional transactions are forwarded for
5 processing in accordance with the methods of the prior art to the merchant's acquiring bank 12, which in turn forwards the transaction to the payment card schemes 13. The card payment schemes 13 ensure that the correct charges are applied to appropriate cardholders' accounts.

10 In the prior art, the converted transactions were forwarded directly to the currency conversion scheme 14 or an associate of the currency conversion scheme to facilitate transactions to be processed through a multi-currency bank 15. The multi-currency bank 15 in turn forwards the transactions to the payment card schemes 13, who in turn apply the charges to appropriate cardholder's accounts.

15 In the present invention, an exemplary implementation of which is shown in Figure 4, a number of new transaction records are created from each convertible transaction record generated from a POS device, and at least one of these new transaction records is submitted for processing to the merchant's acquiring bank.

20 The exemplary method, illustrated in Figure 4, will now be described with reference to the exemplary converted transaction record 200 shown in Figure 2, which identifies a record for a converted payment card transaction between a merchant and a cardholder for an amount. This converted payment card transaction record may be
25 received by a host from the POS device of the merchant.

Once the convertible payment card transaction record is received by a host 400, the host commences generating a number of payment transaction records.

30 In particular, a first transaction record is created 401 between the merchant and a second cardholder for the same amount as the received transaction record. This first transaction record identifies an unconverted transaction between the merchant and a

second cardholder. An exemplary resulting first transaction record 500 is shown in Figure 5. This newly created first transaction record may be created by amending the received record.

5 The second cardholder identified in the first transaction record 500 is a cardholder account or pseudo cardholder of an intermediary possibly for example the operator or an associate of the operator of the currency conversion scheme.

10 Thus the resulting transaction created, effectively creates a debit from the intermediary cardholder to the merchant. This first transaction may subsequently be submitted to the acquiring bank 12 of the merchant for payment processing in the same way as the conventional (unconverted) transaction records. A record will thus exist in the acquiring bank 12 of the merchant showing a credit to the merchant's account. This credit will appear as a conventional payment card transaction between the merchant and
15 a second cardholder (which in the present example is the operator or an associate thereof of the currency conversion scheme).

20 Accordingly, charges, reports and calculations for the merchant may be performed without any requirement for alteration of the software of the acquiring banks or the posting and subsequent removing or "fixing" of ghost transactions.

 In addition, to the creation of the first transaction record 500, a host creates 402 a second transaction record, illustrated for example in Figure 6. This second transaction record 600 identifies a transaction between a second merchant and the first cardholder.
25 In the present example, the second merchant is a merchant account associated with the intermediary, which may for example be the operator or an associate of the operator of the currency conversion scheme. The second transaction record 600 is a converted transaction record and thus contains a second transaction amount in a second currency (that of the cardholder) equating to the first transaction amount converted into the
30 second currency. Thus, a payment card transaction is effectively created which credits an intermediary or pseudo merchant, possibly, for example, an operator or an associate of the operator of the currency conversion scheme, and debits the cardholder.

This second transaction record 600 may be submitted for payment processing, as in the prior art, to the currency conversion scheme 14 for onward submission via a multi-currency bank 15 and subsequently the card schemes 13.

5

As the cardholder is effectively replaced by a second (intermediary) cardholder in the first transaction record, the subsequent processing of the second transaction by a dynamic currency conversion will not cause a double debit in respect of the first cardholder. Thus the necessity of re-writing an acquirer's software to avoid any such related double debit is avoided. Similarly, from the perspective of the acquirer and/or its merchant handling of transactions processed for the merchant, the acquirer systems do not have to be amended to introduce, cater and/or receive ghost transactions for the purposes of amalgamation and/or calculating service charges for the merchant.

10

15

The above described method in effect creates two transactions, the net result of which is a debit from the cardholder and a credit to the merchant, with a third party acting as an intermediary and having a merchant account and a cardholder account.

20

25

It will be appreciated that the merchant account of the intermediary will accumulate funds (credit), whilst the cardholder account of the intermediary will be debited. To prevent inconsistencies arising in the operation of the acquiring banks systems, it may be necessary to offset the balances in the intermediary's merchant account against those in the intermediaries cardholder account. This could for example be implemented using a daily transfer from the intermediary's merchant account to the intermediary's cardholder account. Such a transfer could be implemented at the end of each day for the outstanding account balance as a payment card transaction between the intermediaries cardholder and the intermediaries merchant account, in effect a refund.

30

Another approach is to effectively perform a transfer between the intermediary's merchant account and the intermediary's cardholder account for each converted transaction. Thus, in addition, to the creation of the two transaction records described above, a third transaction 700 may be created 403 as shown by example in Figure 7.

This transaction represents a conventional payment card transaction between the intermediary's merchant account and the intermediary's cardholder account. This third transaction 700 may be submitted, for example to the merchant's acquiring bank for processing 404.

5

Although the present invention has been described with reference to an intermediate host, it will be appreciated that the crux of the present invention is the conversion of a single payment card transaction into two or more separate payment card transactions (as appropriate) using an intermediary as the join between the two or more separate transactions. It will further be appreciated that this concept may be applied in a number of different ways to achieve the desired end result. For example, the splitting into two or more transactions may be performed at the POS terminal.

15

The words "comprises/comprising" and the words "having/including" when used herein with reference to the present invention are used to specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps or components but does not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, components or groups thereof.

Claims

1. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction for a first transaction amount in a first currency, between a first merchant and a first payment card holder, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) creating a first payment card transaction record between the first merchant and a second cardholder for the first transaction amount,
 - b) creating a second payment card transaction record between a second merchant and the first cardholder, wherein the second transaction record identifies a second transaction amount in a second currency which equates to the first transaction amount converted into the second currency, and
 - c) submitting the first transaction record and the second transaction record for processing as payment card transactions.
2. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction according to claim 1, wherein the step of submitting the first transaction record and the second transaction record for processing comprises the step of submitting the first transaction record for processing as an unconverted payment transaction.
3. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the step of submitting the first transaction record and the second transaction record for processing comprises the step of submitting the second transaction record for processing as a converted payment transaction.
4. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction according to any preceding claim, further comprising the steps of creating a third payment card transaction record between the second cardholder and the second merchant for an amount in the first currency, which is the negative equivalent of the first amount and submitting the third transaction for payment processing.
5. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction according to claim 4, wherein the third transaction is submitted as an unconverted payment card transaction.
6. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction according to any preceding claim, further comprising the initial step of determining whether a

transaction is a dynamic currency convertible transaction prior to performing the steps of creating the one or more transaction records.

7. A method for effecting the performance of a payment card transaction according to any preceding claim, further comprising the step of posting the first and/or second
5 and/or third transactions to the host computer system associated with an acquiring and/or multi-currency bank.

8. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction, the system comprising:

means for receiving details of a transaction for a first transaction amount in a first
10 currency, between a first merchant and a first payment card holder,
means for creating a first payment card transaction record between the first merchant and a second cardholder for the first transaction amount, means for creating a second payment card transaction record between a second merchant and the first cardholder,
wherein the second transaction record identifies a second transaction amount in a second
15 currency which equates to the first transaction amount converted into the second currency, and
means for submitting created transaction records to a host for processing as payment card transactions.

9. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according
20 to claim 8, wherein the means for submitting created transaction records is suitably adapted to submit the first transaction record for processing as an unconverted payment transaction.

25 10. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according to claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the means for submitting created transaction records is suitably adapted to submit the second transaction record for processing as a converted payment transaction.

30 11. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according to anyone of claims 8 to 10, further comprising means for creating a third payment card transaction record between the second cardholder and the second merchant for an

amount in the first currency, which is the negative equivalent of the first amount and submitting the third transaction for payment processing.

- 5 12. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according to claim 11, wherein the means for submitting created transaction records is suitably adapted to submit the third transaction record for processing as an unconverted payment transaction.
- 10 13. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according to anyone of claims 8 to 12, further comprising means for determining whether a transaction is a dynamic currency convertible transaction prior to performing the steps of creating the one or more transaction records.
- 15 14. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according to anyone of claims 8 to 13, wherein the system comprises a payment card terminal.
- 20 15. A system adapted to effect the performance of a payment card transaction according to anyone of claims 8 to 13, wherein the system comprises an intermediate or other host computer system adapted to receive payment transaction records from a payment card terminal or other device and route them for processing as either converted or unconverted transactions.
- 25 16. A computer program product having code embodied therein which when implemented on a computer effects the methods of any one of claims 1 to 7.

1/4

100 →

3			4	5	6	7	8	9
Date	Cardholder Name	Cardholder Card Number	Expire Date	Merchant Name	Merchant Code #	Transaction Amount e.g.		
A0	23-May-02	Mr. Joe Soap	1234 5678 9123 4560	12/2003	A Trader	841480725		1,234.56

Figure 1

200 →

3			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Date	Cardholder Name	Cardholder Card Number	Expire Date	Merchant Name	Merchant Code #	Transaction Amount e.g.	Exchange Rate, e.g. ¥/ e.g. ¥	Cardholder Converted Amount,		
B0	23-May-02	Mr. John Doe	9876 5432 1987	11/2004	A Trader	841480725	2,654.32	119.105	316,142	

6543

Figure 2

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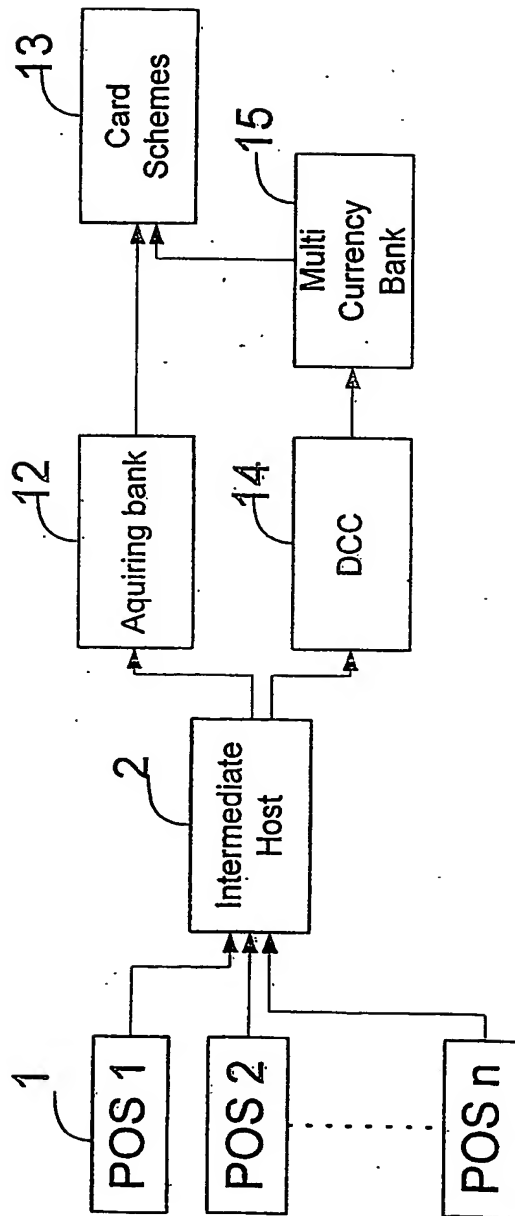


Figure 3

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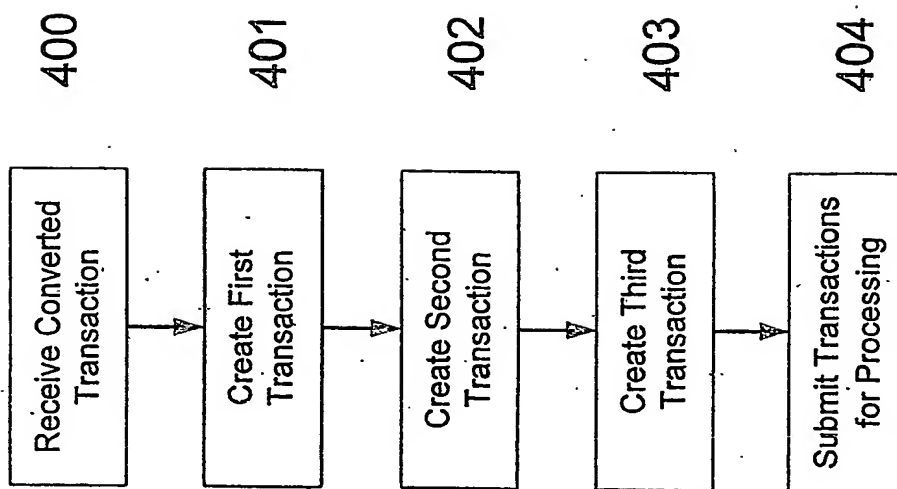


Figure 4

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500

	Date	Cardholder Name	Cardholder Card Number	Expire Date	Merchant Name	Merchant Code #	Transaction Amount e.g.	Exchange Rate, e.g. ¥/	Cardholder Converted Amount, e.g. ¥
B1	23-May-02	Cardholder	1111 1111 1111 1111	1 2022	A Trader	841480725	2,654.32		

Figure 5

600

	Date	Cardholder Name	Cardholder Card Number	Expire Date	Merchant Name	Merchant Code #	Transaction Amount e.g.	Exchange Rate, e.g. ¥/	Cardholder Converted Amount, e.g. ¥
B2	23-May-02	Mr. John Doe	9876 5432 1987 6543	11 2004	1 Merchant	9999999999	2,654.32	119.105	316,142

Figure 6

700

	Date	Cardholder Name	Cardholder Card Number	Expire Date	Merchant Name	Merchant Code #	Transaction Amount e.g.	Exchange Rate, e.g. ¥/	Cardholder Converted Amount, e.g. ¥
B3	23-May-02	Cardholder	1111 1111 1111 1111	1 2022	1 Merchant	9999999999	- 2,654.32		

Figure 7

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